



# XXIV SQUADRON ASSOCIATION ROYAL AIR FORCE

President: Air Commodore Richard Gould CBE MA BSc FRAeS  
Chairman: Group Captain K Chapman MPhil BA

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT RAF LYNEHAM 1 SEPTEMBER 2005.

**Members attending:** Messrs R Gould (President), K Chapman (Chairman), C Harley (Deputy Chair), D. R. Burgin (Secretary).

G Burchell, C Carrington, R.Dew, L.Hagon, R.Hastings, P Keeble, J.Martin, J McArthur, M.Phillips, O Reardon, A.Turner, W.M.Watkins, (16 in total)

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to those able to attend this year's special 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AGM and Reunion programme. It should be noted for the Minutes that due to the many events taking place during the afternoon and a programme overrun, the start of the AGM was delayed until 16:30. This resulted in a lower attendance at the AGM itself. (see item 1/2005 below)

### **Item 1/2005 Apologies for Absence**

The Secretary had received various apologies of absence by letter, phone, electronic mail and word of mouth, along with several generous donations to the Association funds amounting to in excess of £150. We make special mention from the list of Betty Archbell, widow of Wg Cdr Tempest Archbell, (ex-South African Air Force and a former OC XXIV Sqn) who made a generous donation towards the cost of an Anniversary gift.

As in previous years, the list of notifications and letters was made available for all attending to read. A full list of apologies is as follows:

Mrs B.Archbell (+ donation), B Baker (+ donation) R Barker (+ donation) T Clack, J.Clark (+ donation), G V Donald, W.Francis (+ donation), F.Goodwin (+ donation), M Hardy, V.Hemmings (+ donation), D Hobbs, R Likley (+ donation), D.Marney, H Nickson, R Payne, A Price, V Price (+ donation), K Rayner (day only) S Reynolds, J Richardson, J Smither (+ donation), T Southgate, M Turner, AVM J.Tetley (day only) S Webb, S. Wheeler, C.Williams, R.Wright.

Present on day but unable to attend AGM:

R Brawn, L Hagon, R Hale, W Holden, H Luxton, D Parkinson, T Paterson, D Smith, R Stewart, P Tootal, L Warrington, S Webb, S Wright.

### **Item 1.1 In Memoriam**

Members stood in silence in remembrance of the following comrades:-  
F/L Tony Rippengal, F/L Frank (Jock) Hannah, F/L Fred Lloyd, Mr Ken Cox and Sqn Ldr George Brown.

**Item 2/2005 Minutes of the previous AGM**

No observations were raised against the accuracy of the 2004 Minutes, which were duly accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by Mike Watkins, seconded by John Martin, passed unanimously.

**Item 3/2005 Matters Arising**

The following actions were left outstanding from the 2004 AGM for the Committee to address:

- Item 10/2004 – Combined Reunion with 30 Sqn. The Chairman was tasked to contact 30 Sqn Association with a view to exploring the possibility of a combined Reunion, see also Chairman's Report Item 4/2005.
- Item 11/2004 – Secretary to contact Hotel. The Secretary was actioned to make arrangements with the Bibury Court Hotel, Glos in preparation for the Summer Social.
- Item 12/2004 – Charity Donation and Anniversary Gift. The Treasurer was tasked to send donation of £89 to Burton Hill House School and Chairman was tasked to discuss 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gift with OC XXIV.

**All Complete.**

**Item 4/2005 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman confirmed the dates for next years AGM and Reunion weekend: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October - Evening Informal meet and greet at Hilton Hotel, Swindon Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October - AGM, Reunion lunch, afternoon programme, Ladies Guest Night in Officers Mess, RAF Lyneham.

The Chairman reported that, as tasked at last year's AGM, he had contacted the Chairman of 30 Sqn Association to sound out the possibility of combining some elements of future reunions. After waiting five months for a response, this overture had been rebuffed. This was somewhat surprising as this idea had originally been suggested (albeit informally) by a senior member of 30 Squadron Association. This issue is now closed and XXIV Sqn Association will continue to explore other ways of encouraging greater participation at reunion events.

The Chairman also reported that, as tasked at the 2004 AGM, he had contacted OC XXIV Sqn to discuss the possible presentation of a 90th Anniversary Gift. OC XXIV Sqn had intimated that a painting of reasonable quality would be highly appreciated but subsequent research by Mike Watkins indicated that such a painting could not be commissioned or otherwise purchased for much less than £1000. As this amount was well over the £200 - £300 that the Treasurer had stated we could afford (see 2004 Minutes) the Chairman decided that he could not commit the Association to such a large item of expenditure without the approval of Association members. He had explained this to OC XXIV Sqn.

Subsequent discussion centred on the suggestion that the Association should begin to earmark funds now in anticipation of the Squadron's centenary in 2015. With that in mind, it was agreed that the Association should set up a Centenary Fund as soon as possible, with a view to putting £100 per annum into this special fund for each of the coming 10 years. This would produce a fund of at least £1000 by 2015.

To ensure that this question remains under continuous review, Peter Keeble suggested that "The Centenary Fund" should be a permanent Agenda Item until 2015. This suggestion was unanimously agreed. For formalisation of this proposal, see Item 11.1 under AOB below.

#### **Action on Secretary & Treasurer**

Finally, the Chairman expressed appreciation to OC XXIV Sqn and the Squadron liaison team (especially Flt Lt Phil Whitworth) for all their hard work in making this year's special Anniversary a day to remember.

### **Item 5/2005 Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer conveyed apologies (through the Secretary) for his absence from the AGM due to unforeseen business commitments. On his behalf, the Secretary informed the AGM that the accounts are in a healthy condition and in balance. With the Association's financial year ending 31 October 2005 and the AGM taking place a month earlier than normal, it was agreed to publish the accounts along with the Minutes once all income and expenditure for this year have been finalised.

#### **Action on Treasurer**

Generous donations from members continue to give Association funds a welcome (if un-budgeted) boost, for which we are very grateful.

### **Item 6/2005 Secretary's Report**

#### **Item 6.1 Membership**

The Association numbers have increased with seven additional members albeit partially offset by the sad loss of four members. We shall continue to advertise through many outlets, including the Aircrew Association, Air Mail - RAFA, BA 25 Year Club, RAF Club, RAF News, etc.

Our Membership Champion, Mike Phillips has provided some useful new leads in his first year in the post to publicise the Association. Members are also asked to help by promoting the Association whenever possible.

#### **Item 6.2 Attendance**

This year's Summer Social at Bibury attracted 21 Association members and guests. Attendance for the day time events of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary shows 66

against last years numbers of 57. The Squadron's Ladies Guest night at the De Vere Hotel, Swindon attracted a bumper 49 members and guests against 30 at our last year's event at Lyneham in October 2004.

### **Item 6.3 Newsletter**

This year's Newsletter (Issue No. 12) was a 26-page edition but was a tough deadline to meet with material being pretty scarce. Feedback from readers was complimentary and well received for keeping ALL members up to date.

The Secretary repeated his "re-re-request" for a fresh Editor or more assistance in collecting material. Specifically, he appeals for plenty of material – ideally submitted in soft copy - especially photos with brief details. All material will be returned or turned over to the Squadron Historian to add to the comprehensive collection on display at each Reunion. Note also that Issues 5 - 12 are available on the Web Site for reference in **Portable Document File (PDF)** format, which mirrors the look and layout of the original document.

### **Item 6.4 Summer Social**

The Summer 2005 event was held on Wednesday 1st June at the Bibury Court Hotel. (See page 26 of Newsletter Issue 12). This venue once again proved to be more popular than Aviation Sites or Museums, with 21 Association members and guests attending.

### **Item 6.5 Website**

The conflict of priorities between the duties of Newsletter Editor and Web Site Manager are still holding back efforts to expand and make the Web Site the focal point and repository for all things connected with 24 Squadron. The Squadron's ever increasing historical significance should be available for both Members as well as the world at large. This is still the long term aim.

Our presence is well registered with the most popular search engines on the Internet, and our website now has a slightly more memorable address [www.24sqnassociation.royalairforce.net](http://www.24sqnassociation.royalairforce.net) with links to many other similar organisations. The site has expanded thanks to Simon Batchelor, an Associate Member who has provided additional research details of aircraft types flown by XXIV.

### **Item 6.6 Sqn Support**

The Secretary added his thanks for all the support and help received from the XXIV Squadron liaison team, especially Flt Lt's Phil Whitworth and Caz Leavey for being so understanding in accommodating additional attendees at this years special programme of events. Mike Phillips also merits a special mention for his fund-raising raffle, which raised £75 for Association funds.

## **Item 7/2005 Annual Election of Officers**

The present Committee confirmed that they were all willing to serve for another term but, as required by the constitution, offered themselves up to the AGM for re-election.

It was proposed by Ron Hastings and seconded by Chris Carrington that the current team remain in place. This proposal was unanimously endorsed by the AGM.

Accordingly, the Committee structure for 2005/06 is:-

<b>Chairman</b>	Keith Chapman	<b>Deputy Chairman</b>	Clive Harley
<b>Treasurer</b>	Keith Rayner	<b>Secretary</b>	David Burgin

(see <http://www.24sqnassociation.royalairforce.net/admin.htm> )

#### **Item 8/2005 Format/Date of Future Association Meetings**

The Chairman confirmed that, as agreed at last year's AGM, the Association would henceforth revert to the tried and tested format whereby the entire reunion programme takes place on a Saturday. Members will still be able to meet informally in a local pub or hotel on the Friday evening, if they so wish.

Note the following dates:-

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2006** - evening casual meet and greet at Hilton Hotel, Swindon

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2006** - AGM, Reunion lunch, informal afternoon programme, Ladies Guest Night in Officers Mess, RAF Lyneham

**Action on Secretary to book Officers' Mess**

#### **Item 9/2005 Summer Social Event 2006**

In line with earlier discussion recorded above and corroborative attendance figures, it was agreed that the next summer social event should take the form of lunch at the popular central location of **Bibury Court Hotel** in the Cotswolds. This event is planned for **Wednesday 7 June 2006**.

**Action on Secretary to contact Hotel first week of May 2006**

**Members attending to notify Secretary prior to 1 May for numbers**

#### **Item 10/2005 Donation to Burton Hill**

It was proposed by Clive Harley and seconded by Joy McArthur that the Association should make its customary donation to Burton Hill House at Malmesbury, the Squadron's nominated charity. It was unanimously agreed that the amount donated this year should be £90, equating to the number of years that the Squadron had been in existence.

**Action on Treasurer**

#### **Item 11/2005 Any Other Business**

### **Item 11.1 Centenary Fund**

The President formally proposed that the Association should set up a special Centenary Fund (as per Item 4 above) with a first transfer of £100 from Association funds plus Mrs Archbell's donation. This proposal was seconded by Peter Keeble and unanimously approved by the AGM.

**Action on Treasurer**

### **Item 11.2 Vote of Thanks**

A vote of thanks for the Committee's work during the past year was proposed, seconded and unanimously endorsed by the AGM.

### **Item 11.3 Squadron Ties**

Despite a variety of Squadron Memorabilia available for purchase, the one item that seemed to be lacking was a Squadron Tie. Mike Watkins had been in touch with a supplier who had quoted a minimum order quantity of 50, with an item price of just under £20 for the silk version, in total £1,000.

Some discussion took place on two possible designs, the unique and distinctive ZIG ZAG black and red style or a more orthodox repeat squadron crest style on a plain background. The general consensus was to retain the Squadron's distinctive ZIG ZAG design but to increase the take up or overcome minimum order charges by teaming up with the Squadron when they re-order stock.

**Action on Mike Watkins to liaise with Sqn Adj.**

*Secretary's Note :-* Would anybody with an e-mail address who has not already done so, or **changed address** please send a brief message to:- **the24secretary at royalairforce dot net** (see also web site).

**Bookmark this site; it's the Association Web Page on the Internet**

<http://www.24sqnassociation.royalairforce.net>

**PLEASE NOTE! DATE OF NEXT AGM & 91st ANNIVERSARY REUNION - SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2006.**